

A-level HISTORY

Component 1H Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855–1964

Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 7042/1H.
- Answer **three** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about:
 - 1 hour on Question 01 from **Section A**
 - 45 minutes on each of the **two** questions answered from **Section B**.

Section A

Answer Question 01.

Extract A

Russia, on the eve of the First World War, could scarcely be regarded as an industrial country. Farming was still the occupation of the overwhelming majority of the population and, while large towns existed, they were few in number and the urban population was only 18% of the total. It is true that Russian industry had made advances. By 1914, Russia's industries had grown considerably from their 1890s level and Russia possessed a substantial industrial sector. The annual growth rate of 8% in the 1890s was certainly an impressive achievement and between 1906 and 1913, growth was still more than 6%. However, development was variable: a period of stagnation, 1900–1907, brought falling industrial prices and bankruptcies. This encouraged the formation of large corporations which concentrated major industries into fewer hands and pushed up prices. Industrial problems at this time were world-wide, but Russia suffered badly because of its agrarian problems.

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Adapted from ME Falkus, *The Industrialisation of Russia 1700–1914*, 1972

Extract B

The development of a modern, market-based economy brought many changes, including profound social change, to Russia in the final decades of the nineteenth century and the years up to 1914. The old hierarchy broke down, and a new and more dynamic system began to take shape which saw the emergence of new 'middle classes'. Millions of peasants moved into the towns, or worked in rural factories or mines, although factory conditions were terrible and growing numbers of strikes reflected growing industrial discontent. Social mobility was accelerated by the growth of education and these years saw the spread of rural schools. Throughout Russia, a generation of younger and more literate peasants, grew up. Literacy rose from 21% of the empire's population in 1897 to 40% on the eve of the First World War, with the highest rates in and closest to the towns. Men born as peasants, even serfs, rose to establish themselves as merchants, engineers and landowners. Merchants became noblemen.

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Adapted from O Figes, *Revolutionary Russia 1891–1991*, 2014

Extract C

Between 1890 and 1914, huge changes affected the economy of the Russian Empire. The doubling of the population and changes in the structure of the countryside and towns brought new and challenging political problems. Modernisation, industrialisation and industrial growth had implications which were not always welcome to the Russian elites who had promoted economic growth as a way of strengthening Russia's standing as a Great Power. The development of factories, and the process of urbanisation which accompanied this, conflicted with the need to maintain control of the population, and control lay at the heart of the Russian State's concerns. Although, wholesale modernisation of the economy was helping the Russian Empire to prosper by 1914, the difficulties of undertaking this, within an outdated political structure, were never satisfactorily resolved, despite the changes of 1905–6. Industrial growth and agrarian reform created political tensions as a changed economic and social structure brought aspirations which the Tsarist regime found hard to meet.

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Adapted from P Waldron, *The End of Imperial Russia*, 1997

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Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to the changes brought about by industrialisation in Russia in the years c1890 to 1914.

[30 marks]

Turn over for Section B

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

- 0 2** How effective were tsarist policies towards ethnic minorities and Jews in strengthening the Russian Empire in the years 1855 to 1894?
[25 marks]
- 0 3** 'Personal ambition outweighed all other considerations in Stalin's rise to, and consolidation of, power in the years 1921 to 1941.'
Assess the validity of this view.
[25 marks]
- 0 4** 'Attempts to modernise the Soviet economy and raise living standards, in the years 1945 to 1964, were a complete failure.'
Assess the validity of this view.
[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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